

VLR-4/6/71 NRHP-9/22/71

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Lowland Cottage

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lowland Cottage

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
.6 mi. S of Rt. 623, .5 mi. NW of intersection with Rt. 692.

CITY OR TOWN:  
(Ware Neck vic.)

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE: 073
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Ludwell Lee Montague Mrs. Mabel O. Baker 6/89

STREET AND NUMBER:  
111 North George Mason Drive 104 Summers Dr.

CITY OR TOWN: Arlington	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY, OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gloucester	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the historic and largely unspoiled Ware Neck, Lowland Cottage is picturesquely placed in a park-like setting near the bank of the Ware River. Its broad flat yard is dotted with large shade trees, and from it a wide prospect of the river and both near and distant shores is obtained. The house is approached from the north by a tree-lined avenue across open fields.

Like nearly all seventeenth century frame houses, Lowland Cottage has had a complex structural history. The main and earliest part of the house, considered to have been built between 1666 and 1676, is a gambrel roofed one-and-a-half-story structure, approximately forty feet by twenty feet. Originally its plan was very similar to that of the typical New England farm house of the same period, having two principal rooms served by a massive central chimney. Also like the New England house, Lowland Cottage originally had a small winding stair backed up to the chimney on its north side, and a very narrow vestibule in the corresponding position on the south side. The location of this chimney is confirmed by a small drawing of the house made in 1831 for the Gloucester County Surveyor's Book, and by the presence of the chimney's foundations under the floor. This central chimney was dismantled between 1831 and 1840, and the resulting space was used for a straight single-run stair. A much smaller, slightly off-center chimney was built to heat the east room, and an exterior end chimney was built to heat the west room. Covering the house in its original form was a gambrel roof--a very early example of this roof form.

Sometime between 1783 and 1831 Lowland Cottage received two additions: a one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed wing on the east end, and a two-story wing on the north side. These additions are thought to have been made by Richard and Martha Jones to accommodate their numerous children.

In 1854 the appearance of the house was changed considerably as a result of a remodeling by William Godfrey. In order to make the house appear to be two full stories Godfrey erected a false wall above the first floor, thus hiding the lower slope of the gambrel roof. He also raised the east wing to two full stories, and extended the north wing to provide room for an indoor kitchen and a room above it. Godfrey further replaced all the windows and doors in the original portion, and put a one-story porch across the south front.

In 1935 the house was again remodeled, but this time as an attempt to partially return it to its original aspect. The framing of the gambrel roof was found to be intact, and the roof was restored to its original shape. Also, the original seventeenth century beaded ceiling beams of the first floor east and west rooms were found to be in good condition above a later ceiling and were once again exposed. Several new windows were cut in the walls, principally in the east and west ends. The present owner has made minor changes and necessary structural repairs since 1963, but has not significantly altered the house's appearance. The present owner also rebuilt the much decayed early cabin located to the northwest of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Lowland Cottage was included in a patent granted to Thomas Curtis in 1642. In 1665 Curtis's daughter, Avarilla, married Robert Bristow, and shortly thereafter she inherited Curtis's patent of 1642. Bristow combined that estate with some adjoining land of his own to establish what he called his "Home Plantation," which covered the entire western half of Ware Neck. Sometime between 1666 and 1676 he built a small gambrel-roofed "home house" or residence near the bank of the Ware River. That house now forms the earliest portion of Lowland Cottage. Bristow became a prosperous merchant as well as planter, and had a wharf and storehouse on his Ware Neck plantation. His opposition to Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion resulted in some of the rebels coming to Home Plantation in 1676 and despoiling Bristow of his "stock, Provision, Armes, Ammunition, Mrchts Goods & considerable Quantities of Strong Liquors." In 1677 Bristow returned permanently to England. For the next 112 years his Virginia lands were managed for him and his heirs by a series of resident agents. In 1779 the General Assembly declared forfeit all titles of British subjects to property in Virginia and directed that such properties be sold for the benefit of the Commonwealth. Thus, in 1783, 200 acres of Home Plantation, including the residence, were aquired by Warner Throckmorton of nearby Church Hill. As a play on his "highland" home, Throckmorton renamed his new purchase Lowland Cottage. Throckmorton left the property to his six year old daughter Martha in 1791, and in 1801 her guardians sold it to her mother-in-law, Mary Cooke Booth Jones. Upon Mrs. Jones's death in 1820, the property went to her son Richard Jones, husband of Mary Throckmorton. Lowland Cottage was again inherited by Martha Throckmorton Jones when her husband died in 1826. Following her death in 1840, the property passed through a number of owners among whom was William Godfrey, who considerably altered the house in 1854. The present owner inherited the property through his mother, Harriotte Lee Taliaferro Montague. Mrs. Montague was the granddaughter of Warner Throckmorton Taliaferro of Belle Ville, who aquired Lowland Cottage in 1856 from William Godfrey.

Lowland Cottage survives as one of the handful of Virginia frame structures that with certainty can be dated to the seventeenth century. Although the skin of the house has been renewed several times, and the original interior trim lost, the original frame survives including a fine set of beaded ceiling beams in the two principal rooms. Even though the central chimney has been removed, no other seventeenth century frame house of the central chimney type is known to remain in Virginia. Excavations, however, have shown this to have been a very common architectural type in the earliest years of settlement. As the location of considerable seventeenth century

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Gloucester	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. agricultural, commercial, and military activity, Lowland Cottage's essentially undisturbed land could prove to be a significant archeological site.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses: The Mobjack Bay Country, New York: Bonanza Books, 1955.  
 Montague, Ludwell Lee, "Landholdings in Ware Neck", Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 60 (1952), pp. 64-88.  
 Montague, Ludwell Lee, (Lowland Cottage), unpublished manuscript, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 24 ' 24 "	76° 28 ' 10 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 24 ' 24 "	76° 28 ' 00 "				
SE	37° 23 ' 44 "	76° 28 ' 00 "				
SW	37° 23 ' 44 "	76° 28 ' 10 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr. Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: March 29, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, Virginia      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Edw. P. Alexander, Jr.

Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 4/6/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

U.S.C.S. 7' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000)  
 Ware Neck, Va. 1965

Lowland Cottage	
Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 24' 24"	76° 28' 10"
NE 37° 24' 24"	76° 28' 00"
SE 37° 23' 44"	76° 28' 00"
SW 37° 23' 44"	76° 28' 10"

